

Judge Way House  
Cape May Court House  
Cape May County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-465

HABS  
NJ  
5-CAPMA.V  
15-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

HABS  
N.J.

5-CAPMA-V.

15-

Judge Way House  
Cape May Court House  
Cape May County, New Jersey

Owner: Judge Palmer M. Way

Date of Erection: Kitchen end about 1755; main  
house about 1778

Architect:

Builder: Kitchen end Robert Cressce; main house  
John Holmes

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - frame  
construction

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch with dormers  
on front elevation

Historical Data:

At Trenton there is recorded a deed under the date May 21, 1776 when Jonathan Cressce, son of Robert Cressce, sold two tracts of land to John Holmes, one of ninety-five acres and the other of ninety-seven. Robert Cressce had obtained the tracts from the West New Jersey Society by one deed dated June 12, 1751 and another dated September 27, 1744. There is also on record in Cape May Court House another deed for an adjoining plot sold to

N.J.  
5-CAPMA.V.  
15

John Holmes on July 6, 1777 by the same Jonathan Cressee. This tract contained two hundred acres more or less. The property passed by the will of John Holmes to his son Robert. John Holmes was a large land owner both in New Jersey and Pennsylvania; however, he left all of his lands, buildings, and improvements lying in Cape May County to Robert. The plot upon which this house stands was deeded to the present owner in 1935 by Anna H. Ebelhare and Nellie E. Leaming. In this deed the property is described as the homestead plantation of Robert M. Holmes and more recently of Richard C. Holmes.

#### Bibliography:

A search of records in the Secretary of State's Office by Robert M. Falcey, Mercer County Office

A search of the records at Cape May Court House by O. F. Benjamin, Camden County Office

Stephens, L. T. History of Cape May County, New Jersey Cape May City, For the Author, 1897

A Book of Cape May Cape May, Albert Hand Company, 1937 (In an appendix is reprinted Dr. Maurice Beesley's Sketch of the Early History of the County of Cape May)

Walter E. Curt  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.  
District Officer